

T-492

Early 19th century

Outten Log House

Grounds of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

St. Michaels

Private

Relocated from its original location near the town of Trappe to its new location on the grounds of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, the Outten House is a small one-room plan log dwelling that measures just 15 1/2 feet deep and 16 feet long. The small building is a rare survival of a house type that was common in the 18th and early 19th century. Though many of these small houses were later adapted as kitchen wings or outbuildings, many others were abandoned or destroyed, and few have survived with so few alterations. The most significant features of this house are the dovetailed hewn-log walls, the tilted false-plate roof construction, and a variety of hand-wrought iron hinges on the doors.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-492

Magi No. 2104925304

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Lewis Outten Log House

## 2. Location

street & number East side of U.S. Route 50 ☒ not for publicationcity, town Trappe ☒ vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lewis H. Outten

street &amp; number Route 50 telephone no.:

city, town Trappe state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number Washington Street folio

city, town Easton state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-492

### Condition

\_\_\_\_ excellent  
\_\_\_\_ good  
X fair

\_\_\_\_ deteriorated  
\_\_\_\_ ruins  
\_\_\_\_ unexposed

### Check one

\_\_\_\_ unaltered  
X altered

### Check one

X original site  
\_\_\_\_ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Outten Log House is located on the east side of U.S. Route 50 approximately one mile south of Trappe, and 1/4 mile north of Beaver Dam Road.

The house was constructed in two sections. The original house is a one-story-and-loft dwelling constructed of dovetailed logs. It measures 16½ feet long and 15½ feet deep, with a steeply pitched gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. This early building, dating to the late 18th or early 19th century, was enlarged to the south circa 1880s by a two story frame building measuring 16 feet square. This section is two bays wide and consists of a single room on each floor.

The front facade of the log building faces west to the highway. There is a plain batten door in the center bay and a 6/6 window to the right (south). A single 6/6 window is centered in the north gable wall; a batten door centered in the east wall is the only opening in the rear facade. The south gable wall is completely covered by the later building, but the opening for an exterior chimney remains evident in the center of that wall, with an early door opening to the east.

The building rests on low brick piers and is covered with "Insul-Brick" roll tarpaper siding. On the rear facade the tarpaper has been partially removed, exposing horizontal siding secured with machine nails (presumably added when the addition was built) over an earlier covering of thick vertical siding nailed with what appear to be heavy, early machine nails. The roof is covered with wood shingles; the eaves are boxed in and nailed with machine nails.

The interior originally consisted of a single room with a boxed winder stair in the northeast corner and an exterior fireplace centered on the south gable wall. A later vertical board partition has been added to create two small rooms on the first floor. The walls are lined with vertical boards heavily coated with whitewash. The ceiling joists are hewn and pit sawn with lightly chamfered edges and are left exposed. The flooring on the main floor consists of narrow tongue-and-groove boards laid over the original wide flooring, which is supported by log sleepers with only the top surface hewn smooth. Details on the first floor worthy of note include the vertical beaded siding enclosing the stair, the hand wrought strap hinges on the front door, a pair of H hinges on the closet under the stair (one of which is foliated) and an H-L hinge and a cross garnet hinge on the door to the stair. Also of interest are the door pintels surviving on the exterior face of the door jamb between the original log house and the later addition. It is unclear why these pintels are not on the interior face, as on the front and rear door, but the early vertical siding survives on the south gable wall, so this was presumably an exterior door.

The second story consists of a loft with wide floorboards but is otherwise left unfinished. The roof is constructed of light hewn and pit sawn common rafters joined at the ridge with a half-lap joint secured with heavy nails. Each rafter pair is reinforced with a light collar let in and nailed with wrought nails. Some of the collars are half-dovetailed and others are straight lapped. The rafter feet are hooked over tilted false plates that measure  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square. Original heavy horizontal weatherboards survive on the south gable wall, now covered by the addition. These weatherboards have been shaped with a hatchet or adze to nestle tightly against the gable studs and appear to be secured with wrought nails.

The later addition is typical of a house form widely found in the Tidewater region, almost always with a wing; often the wing predates the later house. This two story house measures 16 feet square and 15 feet 8 inches from the sill to the eave, forming an almost perfect cube. The front facade faces the highway. There is a door in the north bay of the first story with one 6/6 window to the south and two 6/6 windows on the second story. Single 6/6 windows are centered on the south gable on each floor. On the rear facade there is a door in the north bay and a 6/6 window in the south bay of the first story; there are no openings on the second story.

This building rests on low brick piers and is covered with plain horizontal siding largely concealed by Insul-Brick tarpaper. The eaves oversail and are sheathed; the roof is covered with wood shingles.

The interior consists of a single room on each floor, with a brick stove flue centered on the north gable wall and an enclosed winder stair in the southeast corner. The interior is plastered; all framing material is nailed with machine made nails.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-492

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The original section of the Outten House is a small one room plan log dwelling that probably dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. Measuring just 15½ feet deep and 16 feet long, this small building is a rare survival of a house type that was extremely common in the 18th and early 19th century. Though many of these small houses were later adapted as kitchen wings or outbuildings, many others were abandoned or destroyed, and few have survived with so few alterations. The most significant features of this house are the dovetailed hewn log walls, the tilted false plate roof construction, and a variety of hand wrought iron hinges on the doors.

In the late 19th century, a two story frame addition was made to the south gable wall. This section, measuring 16 feet square, is typical of a room-over-room house form commonly constructed as a tenant house, usually in combination with a one story kitchen wing.

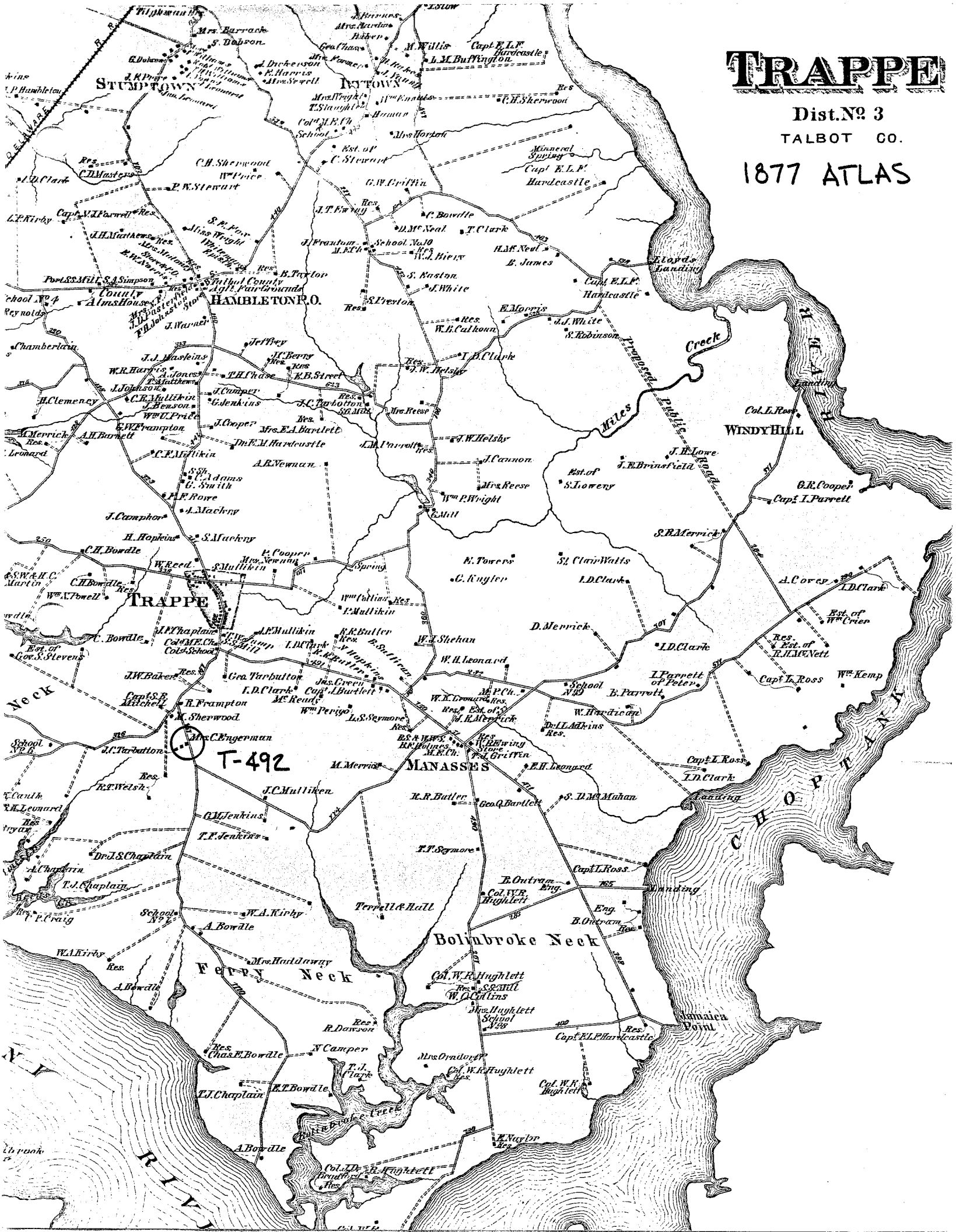
Survey No. T-492

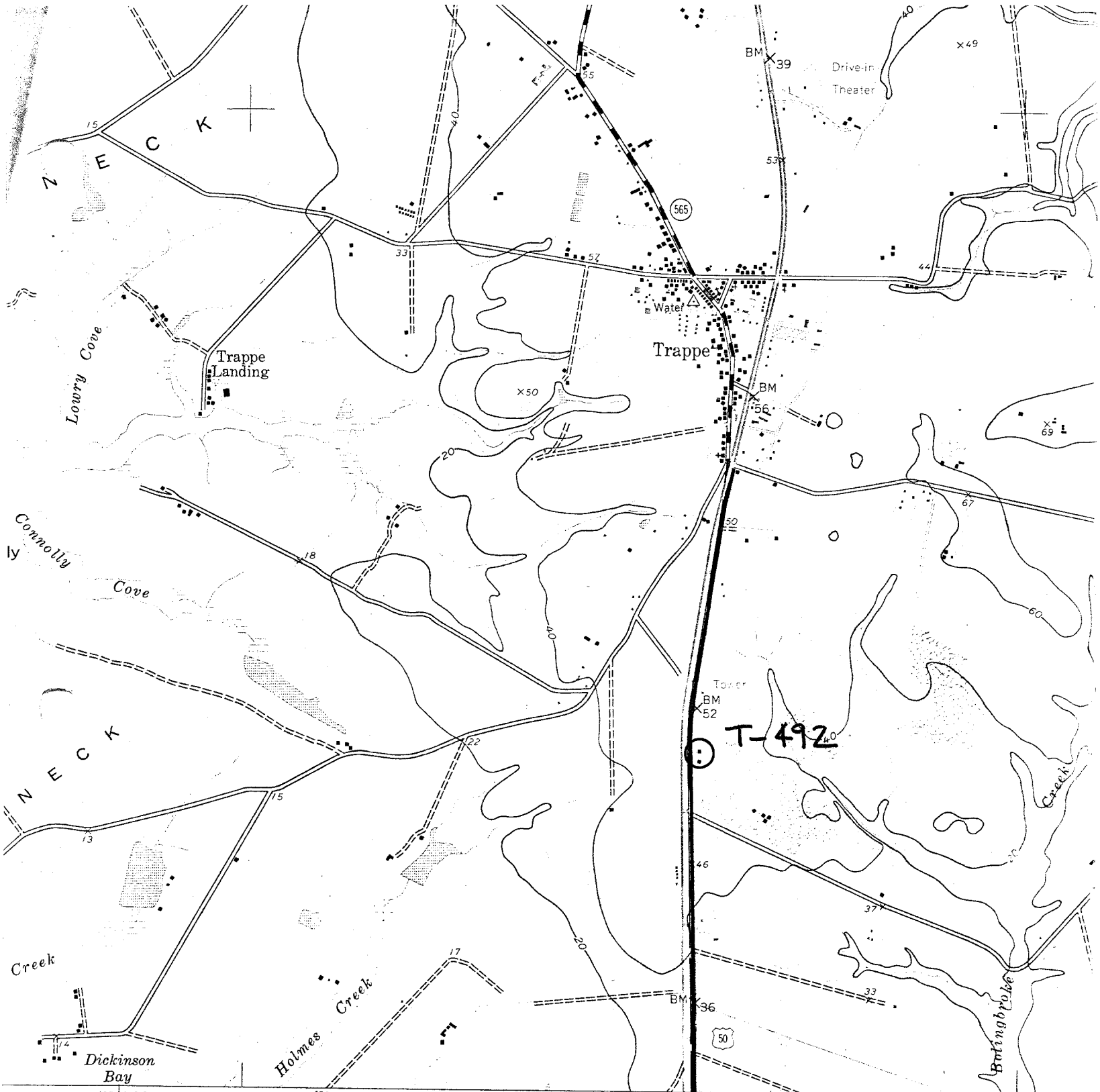
## PS-2746

# TRAPPE

Dist. No. 3  
TALBOT CO.

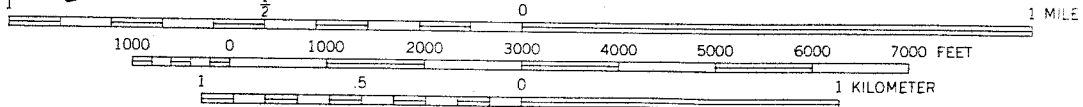
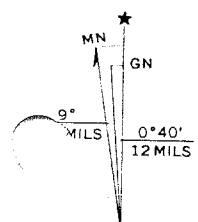
1877 ATLAS





# TRAPPE QUAD

(CAMBRIDGE) 5761 11 SE  
 SCALE 1:24,000  
 CAMBRIDGE 5 MI.  
 VIENNA 20 MI.



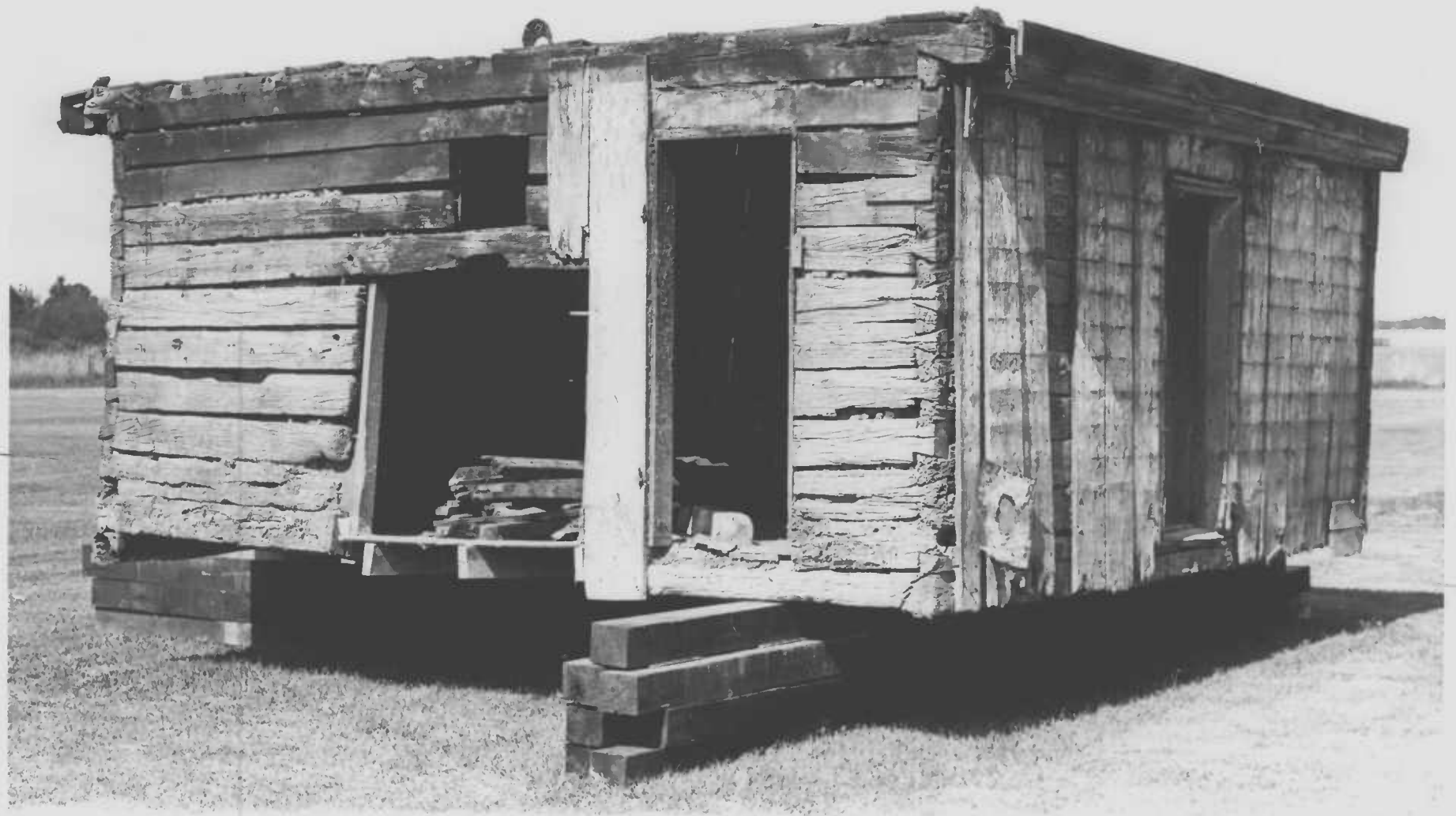
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1 FOOT

TM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





T- 492 Outten Log House  
View from southeast following  
move to Chesapeake Maritime  
Museum, St. Michaels.  
James Lally, June 1983

may 13 - Lally



14 x 1.80

75% 492

T-492

Oyster Log 12e